

INFORMATION REPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT 23rd Tank Brigade at Milovice, 1st Tank
Regiment at Strasice, and Miscellaneous
Military Information

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1. Headquarters of the 23rd Tank Brig "National Hero Jan Sverma", Military Unit [redacted] are located at Milovice (Milowitz - 051/G 00). The brigade consists of the following units:

a. Hq and Hq Co

(1) Hq Tank Platoon

(2) Recon Platoon consisting of

(a) 7 Hummer armored cars

(b) 7 Stuart tanks for reconnaissance

(c) 14 semi-armored vehicles

(3) Signal Platoon, with 14 vehicles, made up of

(a) Radio Section

(b) Telephone Section

(c) Repair Shop

(4) Engineer Platoon which carries engineering equipment, anti-tank mines, and explosives on 14 vehicles.

b. Maintenance and Service Co has 46 vehicles, mostly 3-ton 6-wheeled Fords, Austins, and Bedfords.

(1) Workshop

(a) "A" - mechanics

(b) "B" - mechanics, smiths, welders, fitters, turners, joiners.

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25X1

- c. 3 tank battalions (one in skeleton form during peacetime)
- d. Submachine Gun Bn No. 78

2. Some of the personnel are:

- a. Commanding Officer Col Edward Fachner, former OBZ officer of the 8th Mtz Div
- b. Deputy Commanding Officer Lt Col Milos Hora, alias Gotwald
- c. Chief of Staff Maj fnu Vanicek, former brigade OBZ officer
- d. Operations Officer Maj fnu Salcar
- e. Ordnance Officer Lt Jaroslav Zajic
- f. Finance Officer Lt Jan Frehort
- g. Educational Officer Lt Jan Hromadka
- h. Supply Officer Lt fnu Peterka
- i. Mobilization Officer Lt Milos Hora
- j. Quartermaster Officer Capt fnu Trcka
- k. Technical Officer Capt Josef Kufner

3. Tank Equipment:

- a. Stocks of British ammunition have been exhausted, and the Army Research Institute began production of Czechoslovak ammunition which would be suitable for the British guns. The 23rd Tank Brig tested the new ammunition.
- b. A lack of spare parts is shortening the life expectancy of the tanks, and old tanks are being cannibalized for spare parts.
- c. A shortage of high quality oils and lubricants exists, and low grade winter or summer oil is used instead. The summer oil is of poor quality, and in tank engines it is transformed quickly into a thin liquid, which smells like kerosene.
- d. The liquid used for hydraulic tank equipment does not withstand high temperatures. When the temperature rises above 200° (sic), the tank is not maneuverable, which forces the drivers to wait until the liquid cools.
- e. The rubber tank treads which were left over from the last war are in poor condition and often fall off.
- f. Shock absorber fluid in the British-made tanks has not been replaced because no one in Czechoslovakia knows the formula.

- 4. In April 1949 the Experimental Detachment was told that a new type of Czech tank would be tested, but this tank, produced by the Skoda Works, was merely a modified German Tiger or PZ-4 tank, equipped with a riding stabilizer. The tank has a 6-frequency wireless set (the British tank has only 2 frequencies), a mechanical steering system, and the turret is maneuvered by use of an electrical system. [redacted] not know if the engine is a combustion or Diesel type. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

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25X1

- 3 -

1st Tank Regt

5. The 1st Tank Regt, Military Unit [] is located in Strasice (Straschitz - N50/L 34) and is part of the mobile reserve of the 1st Military District. The CO of the regiment is Col Jnu Cap, a Communist. The regiment has three tank battalions, each battalion three companies, and each company three platoons; each platoon has five tanks, including 2 headquarters tanks and 1 mine destroyer tank. The regiment has a total of 240 "A" vehicles, which include 180 tanks. 25X1
6. In peacetime the regiment has one Maintenance Service attached to it, although during wartime one Maintenance Co is attached to each battalion. The company consists of a 2nd echelon tank workshop which is motorized and has the following vehicles:
 - a. 20 x 3-ton Fords
 - b. 5 x 3-ton Bedfords
 - c. 20 x 3-ton Dodges
 - d. 2 x 4-seater Tatras
 - e. 2 x 4-seater Opels
 - f. 18 motorcycles Ariel 350
 - g. 5 jeeps
7. The regiment is equipped mostly with PZ-4 German tanks, which have 85 mm guns and 6-cylinder gasoline engines with 2 Maybach carburetors. Repairs and exchange of engines are made by CKD, Prague-Karlin, and there is a central collecting point for wrecks and tank parts at Milovice.
8. When the 24th Tank Brig was dissolved, the General Staff, Tank Forces Div, planned the creation of another Armored Brig in Slovakia, probably in Turciansky Svaty Martin (Q50/C 69).
9. The following is the location of some of the tank units in Czechoslovakia:
 - a. 11th Tank Brig - Sternberk (Sternberg - P50/N 86)
 - b. 12th Tank Brig - Dedice (P50/N 71)
 - c. 21st Tank Brig - Zatec (Saaz - N51/F 10)
 - d. 23rd Tank Brig - Milovice (Q51/G 00)
 - e. 24th Tank Brig - Turciansky Svaty Martin (Q50/C 69)
 - f. Tank Corps - Olomouc (Olmütz - P50/N 85)
 - g. Tank School - Dedice
10. There is a Tank Depot at Kerhartice near Prelouc (Q51/M 58) where tanks of all types, German, Soviet, and British, are stored. The depot is located in an old Army barracks.

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- 4 -

11. Army Workshops:

- a. AZ-1 (Auto Workshop 1) located at Prelouc, where spare parts for wheeled vehicles are kept. There is also a special service here for British vehicles.
- b. AZ-2 is located at Sanev near Novy Jicin (Neutitschein - P50/O 46) in Moravia, where repairs are made on Stuart tanks.
- c. AZ-3 is located at Slane near Prague (051/L 78), where repairs are made on Austins, Dodges, and jeeps.

12. An Experimental Detachment, which tests and experiments with tank equipment, was originally attached to the 23rd Tank Brig, but it is now under direct control of the Tank Forces Div of the General Staff. The CO is Maj fnu Dvorak, who was formerly in Army Workshop I in Prelouc, and the deputy CO is Staff Capt fnu Silek. In April 1949 Cromwell tank treads were tested, and broader tracks recommended. The new types were produced by Skoda and CKD Works. Cromwell tank engines are rebuilt in the AVIA Works at Letnany (Letnan - 051/L 89). Cromwell turrets are provided with guns of the same type as those used in ST-3 fighters.

Encl: A - Barracks of the 1st Tank Brig
B - Key to attachment A